

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 01092 091753Z

40

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 CIEP-01 OMB-01

ORM-01 DHA-02 EB-07 COME-00 FEA-01 A-01 SY-05 /087 W
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O R 090835Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3947

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 1092

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: ROUNDUP, 0800 AUGUST 9

1. AT ABOUT 0100 HOUR AUGUST 9 MPLA ATTACKED THE FNLA GUARDS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD BEHIND THE PALACE KNOWN AS SANEAMENTO, WHERE SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS LIVE. THE ATTACK BEGAN WITH A GRENADE EXPLOSION AND CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. SHOOTING IS STILL GOING ON AT THIS WRITING. AT 0800 HOURS I RAN INTO A GROUP OF FNLA TROOPS ON BISHOP'S BEACH DOWN BELOW SANAMENTO. AT THAT MOMENT THEY WERE IN CONTROL OF THE STREET, BUT I DO NOT SEE HOW THEY CAN HOLD OUT FOR LONG. THE FIRING WAS INTENSE RIGHT BESIDE THE CAR AND ONE FNLA SOLDIER ASKED ME WHAT I WAS DOING THERE. I TOLD HIM THAT WAS WHAT I WAS ASKING MYSELF. THE PORTUGUESE APPARENTLY BECAME INVOLVED AT DIFFERENT TIMES DURING THE NIGHT, BUT WERE NOT HEAVILY ENGAGED TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUANDA 01092 091753Z

2. MPLA ATTACKED A NUMBER OF UNITA GARRISONS AND OFFICES IN

LUANDA ON AUGUST 8 AND BY 1000 HOURS A CONVOY OF UNITA TROOPS AND OFFICIALS WAS HEADING FOR NOVA LISBOA. AN EYEWITNESS TOLD ME HE SAW TWELVE TRUCKS LOADED WITH ARMED TROOPS AND SEVERAL CARS. UNITA ELEMENTS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE DAY TO ABANDON THEIR INSTALLATIONS IN LUANDA.

3. THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE SITUATION AT CAXITO; FNLA AND MPLA ENGAGED IN DESULTORY EXCHANGES.

4. IN CABINDA UNITA FORCES TOOK REFUGE IN THE PORTUGUESE GARRISON AND ASKED FOR EVACUATION. NO CONFLICT TOOK PLACE, BUT THE UNITA FORCE SAID IT WAS ACTING BECAUSE OF THE THREAT OF AN ATTACK. THE INTEGRATED COMPANY IN CABINDA IS STILL IN PLACE.

5. THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY REPORT THAT ON AUGUST 7 MPLA AND UNITA FOUGHT AT HENRIQUE DE CARVALHO UNTIL 0200 HOURS ON AUGUST 8, WHEN 100 UNITA TROOPS TOOK REFUGE IN THE PORTUGUESE ARMY GARRISON. AFTER NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE PORTUGUESE, MPLA AND UNITA, THE LATTER WERE EVACUATED TO NOVA LISBOA.

6. MPLA AND FNLA FOUGHT THROUGHOUT THE DAY AUGUST 8 IN MOCAMEDES, WITH MPLA GAINING THE UPPER HAND.

7. INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED FROM BENGUELA, LOBITO AND PEREIRA D'ECA, BUT NO DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE. AT PEREIRA D'ECA, THE ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER GENERAL MACEDO, TOLD ME THAT ALL THREE MOVEMENTS WERE AGREED THAT WHITE REFUGEES TRYING TO GET INTO SOUTHWEST AFRICA SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE SOUTHWARD. AT 0700 AUGUST 9 A HAM OPERATOR TOLD ME THAT 3,000 PEOPLE HAD RETURNED TO SA DA BANDEIRA FROM PEREIRA D'ECA.

8. THE ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER TOLD ME LATE AUGUST 8 THAT IN VIEW OF THE REFUSAL OF THE MOBIL TANKER TO ENTER LUANDA HE HAD CALLED PRESIDENT COSTA GOMEZ AND TOLD HIM THAT PORTUGUESE TANKERS WOULD HAVE TO BE SENT DOWN.

9. DURING THE EVENING OF AUGUST 8 THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF MPLA ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE IN WHICH IT CATALOGUED THE SINS OF FNLA AND CONCLUDED THAT IT HAD LOST THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUANDA 01092 091753Z

10. THE ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER ALSO ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE IN WHICH HE SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF CONFRONTATIONS HAS MULTIPLIED, THE SITUATION HAS DETERIORED, IT HAS BECOME IMPOSSIBLE TO WORK AND THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT FUNCTION. HE APPEALED TO THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO SHOULDER THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES OR ELSE THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE THE MEASURES REQUIRED BY THE SITUATION. WHEN I TALKED WITH GENERAL MACEDO THE

EVENING OF AUGUST 8 HE WAS UNWILLING TO SAY PRECISELY WHAT THE PORTUGUESE WOULD DO. ONE STEP HE HAS IN MIND IS TO CLEAR THE MAJOR URBAN CENTERS OF ALL LIBERATION TROOPS.

11. AGAIN ON AUGUST 8, THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF MPLA DIRECTED A COMMUNIQUE TO IDI AMIN IN WHICH IT SAID THAT THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA WAS NOT FAVORABLE TO THE ARRIVAL OF A COMMISSION FROM THE OAU.

12. A SOURCE TOLD ME ON AUGUST 8 THAT HIGH COMMISSIONER GENERAL ANTONIO DA SILVA CARDOSO WOULD RETURN TO ANGOLA ON AUGUST 11.

13. BY 0700 HOURS AUGUST 9 CARS WERE LINED UP FOR BLOCKS TO TRY AND GET THE LAST BIT OF GASOLINE IN THE CITY.
KILLORAN

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